MIDDLEBURY COLLEGE
MIDDLEBURY, VERMONT 05753

Department of History
January 6, 1983

Dear Nick:

While you have heard much of this before, we hope you will bear with us in the suggestion of a temporary, transitional appointment on the way to Latin America.

On Monday at the Faculty Meeting, Olin asked for suggestions for the last paragraph of his reply to Spencer. The president has the opportunity to make a statement that will enhance the quality and vitality of Middlebury College into the twenty-first century.

The combination of the Twilight Report and the possibility of an attractive minority appointment to the faculty offers the president a constructive and imaginative opportunity: the occasion to say to the students, the faculty, and the Middlebury College community that he has received the Twilight Report, that the College endorses it, and that he is taking the first positive step by authorizing a special minority appointment to the faculty.

Butler is black. He sees black history in a framework far broader than race relations in the United States. He can teach Caribbean and Atlantic Community history (North and South Atlantic) and comparative black history involving Latin America. And, after all, there is, now, only one black on the faculty, and he holds only a temporary position.

Our suggestion is a two-year appointment for Butler and then move to Latin American history. If Butler works out well, we shall indeed be fortunate to wrestle with that problem; if he does not, he goes.

We remain dazzled by the possibility offered us, by the coincidental timing of the chance to make an attractive minority appointment and the completion of the Twilight Report, by what can be done, now, to show publicly that we shall act. President Lyndon Johnson on November 27, 1963, said: "We have talked for one hundred years or more. It is time now to write the next chapter ...." Let us begin writing the next chapter at Middlebury College by implementing some of the recommendations of the Twilight Report. The College has invited some thirty-five high school students to the campus in mid-January. Let us express that weekend our commitment to improving the quality of minority student life by announcing the appointment of a second black to the faculty.

cc: President Robison
Dean Gleason